

DEPARTMENT REPORT OCTOBER, 2014

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Health Director and Division Managers provided an orientation and tour of the Department to Dr. Ali Khan and staff from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health. Dr. Khan is the new Dean of the College of Public Health.
- The Health Director and Health Promotion & Outreach staff participated in the National Safe Walk To School Day on October 8, 2014 at Kahoa School.
- The Health Director attended the Capital Humane Society Annual Dinner on October 10, 2014.
- The Health Director and Management Team members participated in a Strategic Planning Implementation Meeting on October 9, 2014. John Beranek, private consultant, served as the facilitator of the session.
- The Health Director met with state and local stakeholders at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to discuss LR 422 regarding developing policy recommendations towards transformation of Nebraska's health care system.
- The Department is participating in the Combined Campaign for United Way, Community Health Charities and the Community Services Fund. The Campaign runs October 1 – November 7, 2014. The Administrative Aide serves as the City-Wide Coordinator and Department Coordinator.
- The Employee Relations Committee hosted an Employee Appreciation Luncheon for Department staff on October 23, 2014.
- Keerun Kamble – Health Promotion & Outreach Division

ANIMAL CONTROL

	Sep 12-	Sep 13-	Sep 14-
Pet Licenses Sold	4506	4601	4882
Cases Dispatched	2212	2037	1731
Investigation	2358	2223	1910
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	144	143	132

Department Report – September, 2014

Cats	117	135	139
Court Citations Issued	36	35	26
Warnings/Defects Issued	1345	1280	689
Bite Cases Reported	43	34	47
Attack Cases Reported	5	3	8
Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)	10	6	9
Animal Neglect Investigations	55	48	70
Injured Animal Rescue	81	84	98
Wildlife Removal	48	48	43
Dead Animal Pickup	208	188	215
Lost and Found Reports	216	195	217
Phone Calls	4580	3776	4164
Average Response Time (in mins)	26	23	33

- Staff attended the Emergency Response Campus Ready Event that was held on Tuesday, October 24th at the UN-L City Campus. Several agencies and organizations participated in educational presentations, interacting with students and faculty and distributing ER preparedness materials. The Animal Control Division shared a table with the Capital Humane Society.
- Staff are preparing a grant application for assistance with our pet emergency preparedness planning and exercises. There is no set deadline for completion; however the intent is to get the grant completed before January 2015.
- On Saturday, October 25th, Animal Control will assist with a microchip clinic at UN-L East Campus. The event will be held from 10:00AM-2:00PM.
- Staff continue to work on defining the “work flow” process for a number of the major duties in Animal Control. The purpose is to define what we do, how it gets done, what the pitfalls are, and what are the productive tasks. Upon completion, we will know what kinds of technology and computer applications can best serve our dispatch operations, record keeping, reporting, licensing and other day to day duties and responsibilities.
- Staff are working with the GIS Coordinator to look at where mapping of data can help the officers do their jobs in the field and in the office. This will include where the problem owners and properties are located.
- Animal Control service, license and permit fees were posted on the Department webpage and on the Animal Control webpage. Staff will be reviewing some of the fees and make recommendations for any consolidation or changes. Some of the fees have been in place for over 10 years with no changes.

- Staff attended the Capital Humane Society Annual Dinner and fund raiser. It was a record setting event for CHS and they reached many of their goals for fund raising. The cooperation with CHS continues to produce good outcomes which has been recognized and commented on by the community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Project Homeless Connect

- October 1, 2014 was the sixth annual Project Homeless Connect-Lincoln. This is a national model of one-day, “one-stop” services for those who are homeless or near homeless. Lincoln’s Homeless Coalition holds this event in partnership with the Veteran’s Administration’s “Stand Down” for veterans. This year, the venue was changed from Pershing Auditorium to the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Three hundred fifty six (356) people were served this year, which is a 21% increase from last year’s attendance. Five people were housed immediately and seven more people were housed within one week at CenterPointe and Fresh Start.
- LLCHD nurses gave a total of 159 vaccines at the event: flu (100), TDaP (31), Hepatitis B (17), Hepatitis A (6), Pneumonia (5).
- Thirty nursing students from Bryan and UNMC volunteered to triage the initial health needs of participants, giving them an excellent clinical experience with this population.
- Last year, 54% of those served were literally homeless and another 20% were at imminent risk of homelessness according to HUD’s definitions. Data for this year is in the process of being analyzed by UNL’s Center on Children, Families and the Law. Other services provided included: meals (breakfast & lunch, Lincoln Food Bank, Ayars & Ayars, Salvation Army), housing (Lincoln Housing Authority), legal services (Legal Aid of Nebraska), clothing, shoes, foot clinic (Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach & Union College), mental health & substance abuse screening/assessments (CenterPointe, Blue Valley Behavioral Health), tax preparation/returns (IRS), Medicaid applications (DHHS), Economic Assistance applications (food stamps, energy assistance, child care subsidies, DHHS & Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties), Lancaster County General Assistance applications (Lancaster County GA), Veterans benefits and health care (VA), ex-offender reentry program (Released & Restored), family planning, breast and cervical cancer screening, and sexually transmitted infection screening & treatment (Family Health Services Inc.), HIV testing (Nebraska AIDS Project), vision screening, vouchers for a free follow up exam and corrective glasses, free reading glasses (Clinic With a Heart), dental screenings and referrals to care (UNMC College of Dentistry), haircuts, identification cards, job placement/vocational rehab (Community Action of Lancaster & Saunders Counties/Workforce NE), and drop in child care.

Flu Vaccine Outreach

- LLCHD nurses are planning sixteen outreach events for flu vaccination this flu season. We focus on working with agencies who serve the homeless and near homeless: Clinic With a Heart, the Gathering Place, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, and the Center for People in Need. We typically are available during large holiday giveaway events. We've also partnered with the UNMC College of Nursing to have students develop a site for us at a local church during a Food Net event. Again, demonstrating to nursing students how poor health can manifest due to poverty is a valuable clinical experience, is valuable for their future practice, and hopefully, results in healthier patient outcomes.

Health Insurance Marketplace

- The next open enrollment period for the Health Insurance Marketplace will be November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in the first enrollment period, approximately 44,000 people living in Nebraska enrolled in the Marketplace. CMS also stated that nearly 7 in 10 persons enrolled in the Marketplace nationally, are paying \$100 a month or less for health insurance. Like last year, there are likely to be 4 insurance companies offering plans in Nebraska. The official announcement has not been made at the time of this report. CHS will have 28 staff trained as Certified Application Counselors (CACs) this year. As a part of their normal case management and outreach activities, CACs are expected to assist clients in applying for Marketplace insurance or NE Medicaid and refer clients to Lancaster County General Assistance, Health 360, People's Health Center or NE Urban Indian Health Center for care. CHS staff members are completing the required Marketplace and NE Medicaid training this month and in November. LLCHD will host a NE Medicaid and Economic Assistance application training for our staff and community partners on November 6th. Staff from Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties, People's Health Center, and NE Appleseed will attend along with LLCHD staff.

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation):

Total	3773
Main	2861
LMEP	154
Cornhusker Clinic	758

Food: For April 2014

Food Monthly Obligations	\$ 232,297.99
Food Pkg Avg.	\$ 69.05
Women	\$ 44.04
Infants	\$ 142.71
Children	\$ 46.86

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	
Interns	
Volunteers	
LMEP Residents	1

This will be the last month for LMEP. Clinic closed September 30, 2014.

Dental Health

- Patient visits (duplicated provider appointments): 932
- Patient Encounters (duplicated count): 665
- Patients (unduplicated count): 573
- Children served: 300 (52%)
- Medicaid Enrolled clients: 316 (55%)
- Clients falling at or below 100% of poverty on minimum fee for service: 197 (34%)
- Clients falling in range of 101%-200% of poverty for steps 2 - 5 fees: 62 (11%)
- Race/Ethnicity/White non-English (Arabic, Farsi, French, Kurdish, Russian, Ukranian): approximately 67%
- Clients served during extended evening clinic: 76 children during 77 client encounters with 115 provider visits.
- Children served during extended evening hours: 71 (92%)

Outreach Activities

- LPS school screenings orientation for nurses: 34 nurses attending
- Educare screenings and fluoride rinse applications: 119 children participating
- Center Pointe oral health presentation: 16 participants
- Waverly School District school screenings: 600 students screened
- One dental assisting student from Southeast Community College rotated through the clinic during month of September.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Program

Water Quality - Private Water Wells

Water Quality Goals (Purpose)

Protect human health by: preventing waterborne illness; preventing ground and surface water pollution; preventing illicit discharges; assuring Lincoln maintains compliance with its NPDES Stormwater Permit; and assuring new developments have adequate water and sewer.

Water Quality Indicator

Ensure all private wells used for potable water are tested annually for bacterial and Nitrate contamination and well owners/users are notified of the results within 7 days.

Strategies/Methods (What we do)

- educate well owners on protecting groundwater from contamination
- investigate suspected waterborne illnesses
- issue permits
- conduct annual inspections and take water samples from potable wells within the city limits
- conduct inspections and take water samples from new or repaired wells within the 3-mile limit
- assure proper decommissioning of wells
- take enforcement actions

Funding/Source

Approximately 90% of the direct field costs for this program are funded through user/permit fees.

Water Well Data:

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Permits Issued	550	550	604	572*
Inspections	747	532	790	891
Water Samples	1074	918	841	1343
% + Coliform	15%	11.1%	18%	14.5%
% + E. coli	1%	.73%	2.7%	1.5%
% >= 10 ppm Nitrate	6%	2.3%	5.7%	5.2%

* 532 water well permits issued in the City, 37 newly drilled, and 3 water well repair permits were issued in the 3-mile limit (newly drilled wells). (BPRA001 data from 10/23/14)

Comparison

In FY14, 14.5% of water wells tested for bacterial contamination were found to have coliform bacteria, indicating contamination issues, 1.6% had E. coli, indicating fecal contamination. 6.1% of wells tested for Nitrate had levels which posed a known public health risk (>10mg/L). These data are consistent with past years, but somewhat on the high side. Contamination can be affected by weather conditions; heavy rainfall/runoff tends to increase contamination levels; drought conditions (such as 2012) may result in less contamination.

Description

Local ordinance requires all domestic wells (drinking water, irrigation, etc.) within the city and all new wells drilled within the 3-mile limit to hold a permit. In FY14, the permit fee for a newly drilled well was \$200, and the annual permit fee for a well in the City limits was \$115 (LMC 8.44). Over 50% of the wells in the City are used for drinking water, and the majority of the rest are used for irrigation. All domestic wells in the City that are used for drinking water are inspected and tested for bacteria and Nitrate contamination annually. Each of the newly drilled potable water wells within the 3 mile limit were inspected and sampled for bacteria and Nitrate. Water is one of the most common carriers of disease causing organisms and chemicals which present health risks. When properties with private wells are annexed into the city, the owners are allowed by right to retain their water well and not connect to the Lincoln Water System. Annexations increase the number of people required to obtain a city well permit.

Partnerships & Efficiencies

Health works closely with DHHS and LPSNRD on groundwater issues. Health works closely with Planning on newly annexed areas to assure that people know how the well ordinance applies. A geographically referenced database has been created and Accela Automation holds all permit information.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- With the diagnosis of three Ebola cases in Dallas, including two nurses who treated the Liberian man who was the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the U.S., there has been much greater work for our Communicable Disease and Preparedness staff. The fourth case of Ebola diagnosed in the U.S. was just confirmed in New York City. The patient is a doctor who cared for Ebola patients in West Africa. HDE staff members (especially our Communicable Disease Supervisor, Tim Timmons, and our Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator, Randy Fischer) have been engaged on several fronts:

- Interviewing with the media about Ebola, how it's spread and explaining who is at risk for contracting the disease. Reminding the media that the general public is at extremely low risk for contracting the disease since it is not a respiratory disease and can only be contracted by someone who has contact with the patient's body fluids after they begin having symptoms. By far, those at highest risk for contracting the disease are health care workers and close family members and friends who may care for the patient
 - Informing the medical providers and alerting them of who might be considered a suspect case of Ebola. Generally, it is someone who has symptoms of the disease (fever, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, a rash, unusual bleeding) and has a recent travel history from one of the West Africa nations where Ebola is present
 - Working with our partner agencies/organizations that might be affected by an Ebola case if we were to have one in Lancaster County. Making sure that plans are in place should we have a suspect case. The partners include the Lincoln hospitals, Lancaster County Emergency Management, LFR, clinics, Lancaster County Medical Society, LPS, UNL among others
 - Learning from the mistakes and improper handling of the Dallas cases, to better diagnose suspect Ebola cases, better protect health care workers and minimize the mixed messages that were connected to how the hospital and public health officials managed the cases
 - Creating a situation manual and scheduling a tabletop exercise for October 28th with the partners mentioned above plus others. We have RSVPs from 92 individuals representing 40 agencies for the exercise
 - Participating in CDC and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services calls to keep up with the evolving guidelines and policies
 - Informing members of our Lancaster County and Southeast Nebraska Healthcare Coalitions about their Ebola plans and determining gaps in their preparedness level
- This is also the beginning of flu season so we are encouraging the public to get their annual flu vaccination. Once again this year the recommendation is that everyone six months or older be given a flu vaccination, which is the best way to prevent getting the flu. Tim Timmons is once again distributing his Weekly Flu Activity reports every Friday, which reports local, state and national flu activity levels. The local report draws information from lab reports, school absentee information and the reason stated by patients for provider visits.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health

- Lincoln has been recognized by the National League of Cities for receiving all five gold medals in the Let's Move Cities, Towns, and Counties (LMCTC) initiative. This initiative is especially focused on a community effort to increase physical activity and healthy eating among Lincoln's citizens with special emphasis on children. Currently there are 454 cities in the country that are participating in LMCTC, but only 16 have achieved gold status in all five goals.
- Staff participated in a meeting to assess community interest in a shared bike program in Lincoln that would include both the City and the two UNL campuses. The meeting was attended by representatives from other City departments, UNL, and from the bicycling community. An evening open house was held at the County/City Building to gather input from citizens regarding their interest in such a program. There are multiple bike share programs in the country including one in Omaha.
- Staff presented bicycle and pedestrian safety information at Lakeview Elementary for over 250 students and family members and at Dawes Middle School for 75 students and family members. In addition, staff presented information about bicycle safety on KLKN's Midday Form. Discussion was about safety habits that motorists and bicyclists need to practice since they are sharing the road.

Injury Prevention

- International Walk to School 2014 was conducted at Kahoa Elementary School on October 7th and 8th. Six hundred fifth grade students participated in four interactive and educational stations addressing crosswalk safety and physical activity. Stations included: being safe around high profile vehicles (FedEx and a LPS school bus); a Safer Journeys computer game exercise on choosing safe routes and pedestrian safety behaviors; safely navigating a marked and signed crosswalk; and how to incorporate physical activity into a daily routine, including walking and biking to school. The school assembly/celebration featured Joe Skare from B107.3 radio as the emcee; City Councilman, Doug Emery; LPS Superintendent, Dr. Steve Joel, and all 600 enthusiastic, cheering students.

Tobacco Prevention

- Staff coordinated a tobacco compliance check with the Lincoln Police Department and four youth volunteers. There were no sales out of 44 attempts to purchase at tobacco retail establishments. Year-to-date, there have been 14 sales to minors out of 215 attempts to purchase for a 93.5% compliance rate among retailers.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Dentrix (electronic dental record software) was successfully updated to the current version.
- Division Manager and staff attended demonstrations of document management software to evaluate usefulness.
- The City HIPAA Risk Analysis and Management Team met. For the next four months, the Division Manager will be coordinating HIPAA Risk Analysis for City agencies. The Risk Analysis will begin in late November or early December.